

HAMILTON LIFE.

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Vol. VIII.

CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1905.

No. 11.

A New Rule for Commons.

So far in the history of Commons Hall, that building has been, as to the dining room at least, for the use of the sterner sex only. This seems likely to be changed, and to be changed for the better.

Last Monday, Dr. Stryker conferred with the Seniors who board at Commons, and broached the subject of allowing women who may be visiting the hill, to get a luncheon or dinner in this building. There was no objection to the plan, and it is more than probable that some new regulation will be made on the subject.

It is a step in the right direction and will do something toward alleviating our present incapacity for entertaining visitors. Many students have been hopelessly and helplessly embarrassed in having absolutely no place to take their mother or sister for luncheon when they have come unexpectedly to see them. This rule will overcome such inconvenience.

It will cause no change in demeanor on the part of the men. They may still smoke and sing at their pleasure. Commons is essentially a men's building and this rule will not change it. Any lady who may wish to eat there, does so in the same way and expecting the same consequences that she does in entering a grill at a hotel. In regard to such occasions as "Junior," this matter may well be left to the good sense of the undergraduates and under no circumstance ought a young lady to be brought to Commons without a chaperon.

If ordinary sense is used by the student body, this newly proposed change can only work for the better convenience of us all, and should be welcome.

Union Theological Seminary, of New York, has received during the past year \$1,410,000. The trustees expect soon to move the site uptown in the vicinity of Columbia University.

Buttinsky.

The Buttinsky Club was entertained Monday evening at the Sigma Phi Hall by Sicard. The early part of the evening was passed in playing pool and singing popular ditties. Then my good host Sicard brought forth apples, doughnuts, pies, cakes and cider in abundance and things began to be livelier. After twilight had become darkest the jolly beggars withdrew to the village, and butted into Clinton's Four Hundred who were giving a ball in Society Hall. Having monopolized the attention of Clinton's fair belles until the skies began to look dangerous, they broke up with a Buttinsky whoop for Sicard and a malediction on morning chapel.

Y. M. C. A. Notes.

We want a strong College sing tomorrow at 5 o'clock in Silliman Hall. The subject of the meeting is, "Strong prayer and its inclusiveness of all true life." Much of the value of these meetings depends upon the response that our members give. "Is it worth my time?" is not the whole question, but also we might ask: How many of the good things of college activity would be carried on if everyone acted on my ethics?

Dr. Root's talk last Sunday was listened to with great interest by a large audience.

We expect to have with us in the near future, Dr. Zivemer, the greatest living authority on the dark lands of Arabia and an expert on conditions in the Mohammedan world. Dr. Zivemer is a Fellow of the British Royal Geographical Society. Several of the fellows have heard him speak and agree that he is a very strong speaker. We bespeak for him a good audience.

Stanford has almost completed its new gymnasium, the largest in the country and second largest in the world. It is 298 feet by 178 feet.

The Football Smoker.

The football smoker held a week ago to-night was in every way highly satisfactory. Aside from the refreshments and social delight of a well-smudged atmosphere, which serve, of course, as a mere excuse to get the physical man in a receptive mood, the spirit which has so generously exhibited itself throughout the fall reached its climax. The team occupied the raised platform and was the cynosure of all eyes and admiration. Besides applause they were the recipients of a huge cake from Floyd King, which was consumed in quantities that must have wrought havoc with their corn-fed stomachs.

When every appetite was sated and the air languorous with veins of incensed nicotia, repeated shouts brought "Prex" to his feet. His speech of congratulation and good cheer was as good as ever. "Nelse" Drummond, '02, spoke shortly and to the point on behalf of the younger alumni, and the old gridiron warriors expressed interest and appreciation of the work done by the team. "Square" was called on amid applause that shook the girders and even after he rose the cheering and clapping continued uproariously. He had his same old clam rake fishing around among the planetary systems and showed at our feet mathematics, meteors, Missouri and a thousand things entertaining and extraneous.

"Davy" cracked his usual line of funny stories and witty personalities. Fitch and Williams, '08, embryonic impresarios, did a stunt or two which went well, though bashfully offered. "Hank" White was brought to his feet and greeted with great enthusiasm. The Anomaly Quartette, composed of Stryker, '06, Sicard, '06, Purdy, '06, and White, '08, sang some popular melodies and coon songs in answer to repeated encores.

Then the crowd wanted Bramley, the captain. He spoke simply and well. The captain-elect, Schwartz, '07, was finally discovered and expressed the re-

gret at the loss of so many veterans of this year's team, but promised the best efforts of the remaining men to make a successful team next fall. Benedict, the bashful manager who has made such a great financial success of the season, tried to crawl under the table when the crowd yelled, but finally was prevailed upon to say that the season went into history without a single debt.

The crowd cheered the team collectively and then one by one, and then gave a yell for Westcott who set up the cigars and one for Benedict, the bashful. Then the crowd commenced to thin out, the football men tarrying to get their H certificates and have a last chat.

All in all it was a great affair and a great time. As "Prex." suggested we ought to have more of them—once a month or oftener. A smoker gets the College together and engenders spirit. Such affairs have always been successful with Hamilton spirit back of them, and the more we have the better will be our spirit.

More About Football.

More interest than ever before has been aroused this fall concerning football as it is now played. There is no doubt in the mind of any level headed person that the game at present is dangerous to life and limb. Not only that, but from some of its brutal elements, it exerts a demoralizing effect upon some. All this is to be deplored. However, there are many good things to be said about football. First of all it is a manly game; a game that requires a fellow with red blood in his veins. Then, too, it is a democratic game; it makes no difference whether a fellow's father is a millionaire or a policeman if he can play the game, then he's it, and some one else takes a back seat. It is the one game out of all our sports where implicit obedience is required. There's no questioning or quibbling about the signals. What a quarterback says, goes. Quick and accurate thinking is also imperative. Such influences as these cannot fail to have good effects. But due to the laxness of some officials, the rowdiness of some players and the careless attitudes of some colleges in respect to professionals, the game has fallen into disrepute. But it's worth "clearing up and saving." It must be mended or ended.

As a result of the death of Moore in the Union-New York University game

last Saturday, the faculty of New York University has issued invitations to nineteen colleges to attend a conference to consider finally, and to dispose of the game. The colleges invited are: Union, Syracuse, Hamilton, Wesleyan, Lehigh, Rutgers, Trinity, Haverford, Rensselaer, Stevens, West Point, Princeton, Columbia, Fordham, Ursinus, Lafayette, Rochester, Amherst and Swarthmore. The invitations sent suggests three questions for consideration: First—Ought the present game of football to be abolished? Second—If not, what steps should be taken to secure its thorough reform? Third—If abolished, what game or games may be possible in its place?

At a meeting of the Columbia University committee on student organizations held last week it was, "Resolved, That in the opinion of the committee the present game of football should be abolished, and the committee respectfully recommends to the university council that the game be prohibited at Columbia University." The action of the committee is final. The students are not allowed to play without the consent of the committee, and if they do they render themselves liable to expulsion.

According to a Chicago paper, thus far this season 20 young men have been killed and 187 injured by playing football.

Dr. Williams on Football.

The agitation on the question of roughness, change of rules, etc., in football seems to have found its sanest expression in the note of Dr. Carl Williams, the Pennsylvania coach, to the university committee in athletics. Williams speaks as a player and one who thoroughly understands the game itself and its relation to the public. "Football as it is played to-day is strenuous and even rough, but not more so than as played a dozen years ago. It is not necessarily brutal. The danger of injury in mass play is more apparent than real. Nine-tenths of all serious injuries occur in so-called open play. The mass play is simply more exhausting and requires more endurance. Any change, then, in the rules which opens up the game will not lessen the number of injuries, but on the contrary will tend to increase them. The only way to eliminate possibility of injury is so to frame the rules as to prevent physical contact of the players; in other words, so to frame the rules that the qualities of courage, endurance, self-

control, Etc., are no longer required—practically to abandon football.

"The accidental injuries are not, however, so frequent or so serious, nor are other evils so great or so incapable of remedy, nor is the sentiment of the fairer minded public such as to demand a radical action. Excluding, then, the question of accidental injury and the question of the evil effect of the complexity of the eligibility code, which is more within the province of your committee, the chief blame for the present more or less popular outcry against football rests upon the opportunity given by the present rules for the display of unnecessary roughness and 'foul play.'

"This condition can, we believe, be met by some changes in the playing rules more strictly defining 'rough play', etc., and inflicting increased penalties therefor, ranging from loss of yards to absolute disqualification. We would suggest that for 'unnecessary roughness,' 'piling up,' the use of the open hand, or elbows and the like, a penalty of twenty yards be inflicted; for the offence of slugging with the fists, of 'kneeing' or of other equally unsportsmanlike action, that the player not only be disqualified by removal from the game, but for the remainder of the half in which the offence occurred his team be obliged to continue the game without a substitute for him, and that the player who shall for the second time in one season be penalized for brutality shall be ineligible to represent any college or university for the remainder of the season.

"These simple changes, we believe, would result in a corresponding change in the character of the game as to those recognized evils, also in the expressed sentiment of an influential portion of the public toward the game as a sport."

Among the Colleges.

Efforts are being made to introduce the honor system into Colgate University.

Yale has dropped the Greek requirements for entrance, but has shown no substantial gains of new students to this cause.

Eckersall, of the University of Chicago, who with Shevlin, of Yale, is considered the greatest end football has ever produced, has never been injured badly enough to retire him from the game, and this in spite of his wearing no sort of protection such as shoulder pads, shin, nose or headgear.

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Contributions and expressions of opinion are solicited from the student body and from interested alumni.

Vol. VIII. SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 1905. No. 11

LIGHTS UP THE HILL are a possibility if only some energetic man will engineer the business. For one hundred dollars we can have five lamps on the Hill, and this cost divided among the different crowds and the residents will be about five dollars per property holder. The crowds all seem to be willing and surely the game is worth the candle. With electric light on the Hill we surely can have it on the way up.

WOE BE UNTO YOU, OH JUNIORS! It is wonderful how elusive is knowledge to the eager student endeavoring to discover it in our up-to-date Library. For days the Juniors have been hot on the trail of data for their History reports. Each alcove promises to be a land of hidden treasure, but alas! how well hidden is that priceless wisdom. It has been rumored that one man found a book of aid. He stoutly asserts that in a musty, skillfully concealed book he found three paragraphs that made direct reference to the subject of his search. But where, oh where, is the abundant material we have been trained to believe awaits us within the walls of our College Library? Perhaps we expect too much when we trust to the Library to give us information on any subject that may be required in our college work. It may be that we are expected

to make a try at original research. If someone had thoughtfully hung up a sign "Look ye elsewhere", what a lot of valuable time would have been saved.

It is the lost time we complain of, not the inadequacy of the library. No one objects to going into the Utica Library to find material. That only requires a few extra hours, and who begrudges that?

We have time; all kinds of time. Still it might seem that either material for History reports ought to be in the library or, if that is asking too much, then, why not have History reports that comply with the limitations of the library?

THE FOOTBALL SMOKER was a grand success and we heartily agree with Dr. Stryker's suggestion that we hold such an affair oftener, every month, say, during the year. It isn't a great deal of work to get one up and no excuse at all save sociability is needed. Even if the whole College didn't come every time, still enough men to have a rousing time could be regularly depended on. We need more of these informal gatherings. We need more social contact with each other and the faculty. We don't want to intrude upon the household *menage* of the faculty, but it would be a fine thing if the members of the faculty could entertain the College in an informal way. At most other colleges the professors' wives give class teas or something of the sort, and such functions afford a very agreeable means of scraping up acquaintances and creating good feeling between faculty and students.

ABOUT ONCE A YEAR, for the last quarter of a century, there has appeared in LIFE a plea for a system of lockers in the dressing room of the "Gym." Having plenty of space this week and a small amount of copy, we make the suggestion once more, without the least hope that it will even be more than that.

What a luxury they would be. If we were not so accustomed to the present inconvenient arrangement we would not call them a luxury, but rather a necessity. Go into what "prep" school gymnasium you will and in ten out of eleven you will find lockers of some sort.

That we need them badly and ought to have them to complete our otherwise adequate equipment there is no doubt, but how to get them! Would it be too big an expense for one class, or could the Seniors afford to present us with lockers? We ask them to give this question consideration.

CLASS SPIRIT AMONG THE FRESHMEN is far below the average. Taken as a whole they seem to lack that *esprit de corps* which is the cardinal requisite of successful organization. Seldom are they seen together, except in the recitation room. The Sophomores scurf them, even impose upon them, with impunity. Such a condition not only hurts the class in which it exists, but is equally injurious to the whole College. It is good class spirit that makes possible a good college spirit. That is what we have always had on this Hill and what we want to keep here. Do not think that we have lost all hope for the Freshmen. Far be it from us to be so pessimistic. It has been shown that there is some good material among them and the chances are that there is more. But we want to see them back up what they have more fearlessly. It is not absolutely established as to who "crawled" in the Sophomore-Freshman football game, but surely somebody did. Now, Freshmen, take a brace, and when the interclass basket-ball games come next term, foster your class spirit and show yourselves worthy of the distinction that is yours.

THE FOOTBALL SITUATION continues hot. Columbia has abolished the game and Harvard is expected to, while Chancellor McCracken of N. Y. U. has called a conference of all the colleges that New York has ever played with. It worries no one much that Columbia has dropped the sport, and judging from the reports of rottenness, favoritism and mismanagement that have come from Harvard for the last six years, it would seem just as well that the Crimson should no longer play. The condition of affairs at Cambridge has long detracted from the prestige of the game. Yale, Princeton and Pennsylvania say nothing much save on rule reformation and are taking a sane view of the matter. The reaction seems to be at white heat and will doubtless cool sufficiently to permit sanity and good sense to have a chance. It doesn't pay to talk. You can't defend a sport to a man who isn't interested in it and who doesn't know something about it. This present agitation is being made largely by persons who are in no way competent judges. The outcome will be interesting and watched with anxiety. The only inevitable result will be a change of rules.

Brown, Dartmouth and Williams have formed a triangular debating league.

Electricity in the Y. M. C. A.

At last the reign of oil and soot is over and, so we are told, electric lights will soon cast their brilliance over the lamp-smudged reading room. This is a great step in advance and a much needed improvement. The old oil lamps certainly were a nuisance without a single mitigating virtue. They didn't even give light. Chalk up another credit to the management and pray for more.

The "Dumping" Certificate.

The present status of the "certificate system" is discussed in a recent issue of the *Brown Alumni Monthly*. This is the system under which the college waives its right to examine candidates for admission and accepts from the preparatory school a certificate of fitness. The theoretical argument for this plan is that during an examination a student is often nervous, he is under unnecessary strain, and he is unable to do himself justice. The authorities of his school know his attainments and capacity, and they are better able than any one else to determine whether he is prepared for advanced work. The practical argument is even more urgent: "If our college does not except Jones on certificate, some other college will, and we shall be distanced in the competition." It is a significant fact that among the New England colleges Harvard and Yale are the only ones to stick rigidly to examinations. In actual operation it has more than once happened that a boy who has failed to pass for Harvard or Yale persuades his teacher to give him a certificate for Brown or Amherst. The certificate thus becomes an ingenious device for dumping the poor material into smaller colleges. Nominally the college warns, or perhaps shuts out, schools whose certificated pupils make a poor showing in the Freshman year; but the ingenious teacher can always reply: "The lad did extremely well under me; I cannot be blamed if your college instructors have failed to stimulate him and subject him to proper discipline. Do not hold me responsible for your own shortcomings." In sheer self-defense 11 of the New England colleges have formed a New England college entrance certificate board. This, we confess, seems to us making the best of a bad matter.

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College Notes.

—The Freshmen had their last "fright" with "Prex.," for the term, last Monday.

—Thompson, '06, preached in Boonville Sunday.

—Judson, ex-'93, was here for a day this week.

—Coach Watson will room in No. 14 Carnegie, with Sherman, next term.

—One snowball does not make a winter, but Friday was a good start.

—Merwin, '09, was on the Hill Saturday and attended the football smoker.

—Mr. G. E. Kazenstein and daughter visited Kazenstein, '09, over Thanksgiving.

—Work on new South has been suspended the past week on account of the weather.

—Has Warburton been pledged to the Sorority, or has he not? The question is much discussed.

—"Exams" are only two weeks off. Let us hope that John D. won't see fit to raise the price on oil.

—"Nels" Drummond, '02, was back to attend the smoker and took his old place in the choir at Sunday Chapel.

—One Freshman has figured up the number of seconds until vacation. He reports that the number is large.

—Pratt, '08, has been amusing the College the past week with a farce, under the stage management of the D. T's.

—The football team sent some flowers to the funeral of Harold Moore, which took place at Ogdensburg on Tuesday.

—Everyone that had the cuts and could borrow the money went home Wednesday. They are not all back yet.

—If there is to be any good sliding on the Hill this winter, the walk by the Arbor should be repaired before snow comes.

—The Sophomores and Freshmen are busy over scurf posters. Their plan to lessen the expense seems to have fallen through.

—Hamilton was represented at the charity ball in Utica on Thanksgiving night by Carroll, '06, Barrows, '07, and Butler, '09.

—Mahady says the fellows missed a good dinner by going home for Thanksgiving. He had the turkeys and the "fixings" all bought.

—The number of contestants for the assistant managership of basket-ball is increasing. This practice of competition is a good custom.

—"The Bouncers," consisting of Sherman, Bloyer and Bennett, gave a couple of feeds Sunday and Monday evenings for the "inmates" of Carnegie.

—"Square" gave the Y. M. C. A., last Sunday, an interesting address upon the subject of "Purpose." It was the most largely attended meeting of this year.

—Scarcely more than a dozen gathered at the festive board in Commons on Wednesday night. Bill Mahady is wearing the smile that won't come off.

—"Whittie" has been getting it pretty hard lately from the Faculty. But the "unkindest cut of all" was when he was told to "wipe off his expansive smile."

—As "Prattie" had no more Bible cuts, "Heine" sent "Shel" Judson to arouse him from his slumbers. Talk about going into the byways and hedges and compelling them to come in!

—Considerable interest was aroused last Sunday after the Y. M. C. A. meeting by "Square's" pointing out a new comet in the sky. They said it was an easy way to get a "supe".

—Benedict is said to have offered the "masters of ceremony" twenty-five cent set-ups if they would not call on him at the smoker. Those few words saved him quite a bunch of quarters.

—One of the football squad had the misfortune to meet "some dirty skunk" on the Campus after the football dinner Saturday night. It brought him rather suddenly from the sublime to the ridiculous.

—The Juniors have changed their subject for the debate which will decide as to who shall be on their class team. They will debate the insurance question as submitted by the College of New York.

—Speaking of heavy weight entering classes, the present Freshmen contingency can look for no honors. Billy Moore has the weight title cinched by nearly ten pounds, with a little over 164 pounds.

—In explaining a passage in Senecute, "Wardie" told Kneeland, '09, that it meant that "if everyone was born at the age of thirty-five years, there wouldn't be anyone left to cut teeth." That's scurfing some.

—When an overheated radiator in Science Hall had formed quite a stream half way cross the recitation room, "Square" told the Freshmen that he knew algebra was a dry subject but did not wish the evil remedied in that fashion.

—With term essays looming up ahead, the Library is taking on an atmosphere of unwonted activity. Most of the reference books have been rearranged, so that it has not been an infrequent thing of late to find a book in its assigned place.

—Despite promising weather, coasting has not materialized. Not a few hauled sleds up the Hill on Tuesday, only to find that a driving rain had converted the snow into slush before they were ready to make the descent. You can lead a sled up the Hill, but you can't make it coast.

—At the College smoker there were many flowery and witty addresses. But the one which received the heartiest applause was Benedict's announcement that although the expenses had been nine hundred dollars more than had been expected, the football season closed without a single debt.

—The paid-up members of that benevolent organization known as "Magazine's Sweet Exchange" will be interested to get news from headquarters. The delinquent firm have given the cards another shuffle and our "lucky card" is up. The magazines will be here in the near future—so says the oracle.

—The Sophomore Serenade is the latest hit on the Hill. A dozen or more Freshmen on the way to Gym. last Tuesday had the wrath of the Sophomore class heaped upon them in bunches, that is, in snowballs. No one is reported injured, although two or three had to adjust their countenances before going on the floor.

—Mrs. Kelly did a rushing business in oil last week. Something went wrong with the lighting plant in Carnegie, and lamps were called into service, which of course excused any poor recitations on Monday. Some one is wondering if Dame Fortune will be good enough to repeat the accident exam. week. There is one hope, history repeats itself.

—"The Bouncers Bounced" was the title of a one-act farce, given to an appreciative audience in Tom Sherman's room a night or two ago. The dramatic personae were Bennett, Bloyer and the bunch. Full particulars may be had of Benedict, who retired shortly after the close of the entertainment. Any inquiries should be made at a distance, however.

—As the Christmas vacation is near, the question of its duration is again being discussed. The plan of having three weeks at Christmas and one at Easter was tried last year with great success. It gives us three weeks of good weather for the holidays and shortens the rainy, sloppy vacation at Easter to one week. Everyone was satisfied with it last year and the general opinion seems to favor its continuance.

—At the smoker last Saturday evening "Prex" expressed his desire to have the College meet together as a body oftener; he suggested that next Washington's birthday we have a banquet and that the alumni be invited. This would give them a chance to see the fellows and hear of the different college activities. Wouldn't this be a great improvement upon spending the morning listening to a lecture.

—By the way, there are some interesting tomes among the dust-covered, moth eaten books of the second tier. An interesting dissertation upon the Gaboon Mission in South Africa ought to be in popular demand. Among the law books we noticed the subject: "Square Root's Digest of the Laws for Chasing Variables". This volume we regret to report is of wood, probably to withstand the strain of the constant usage which its subject is bound to call forth.

—The Sophomore class attended the Freshman rhetorical on Wednesday in the persons of Henderson, Judson and White. Owing to their numbers, a few grunts of disapproval were about the best they could do. When "Hank" remarked that he would like White to remove the expansive smile from his countenance, the Sophomore delegation quit the Chapel, offended to the heart. When White meets White then comes the tug of war.

—The elective course, first term Freshman, in the "Use of the Weed", has become so popular, it is rumored, that in order to maintain a perfectly rigid course for the first year and thereby be consistently true to our traditional fidelity to the ideals of the "old-fashioned college," it is decided to make this a required course. A large class is expected next year and "Prex." now has a fine harvest of the "weed" in process of curing, which will furnish the "makings" for '10.

—The football management received a letter from Coach Watson, saying that he will be unable to coach our team next year at the salary offered. He says that he has received a more flattering offer from another college, and though he would like nothing better than to be with us another season, he cannot let sentiment enter into his decision. The success of our team this fall has been largely due to Watson's thorough coaching, and it will be a disappointment to the College as well as to the team to learn that we will be unable to engage him for another year.

The Pennsylvania Railroad, in order to handle the immense crowds at the Army and Navy game, has double-tracked the road in from Princeton Junction.

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